

Navy's Strange People.

Among the strange people in the Navy are radiomen. A radioman is a person either going on watch or coming off.

Contrary to popular belief, radiomen are not crazy. A radioman has two brains. One perfectly normal brain which is destroyed during the process of learning radio, another in a state of turmoil and used proficiently in his rating. This brain is filled with dots and dashes and procedure signs.

Radiomen are like ground hogs; they seldom see the sun, coming up on topside only on Saturday mornings at the special request of their commanding officer. If the sun is shining and a radioman sees his shadow, he goes below and everyone knows there will be six more days without inspection.

Sitting at his typewriter a radioman receives an endless story of the world flowing through his ears, unable to get out because both ears are stopped by headfones, so the stuff flows out through his fingers and is given to the ship as press news, messages and orders to officers.

When conversing with a radioman do not try to point your story by asking him if he remembers "The messages to Garcia" because he will jump up and scream, "What's the 'R' number of it? Who sent it? If it's lost, It didn't come in on my watch."

Radiomen live on black coffee and canned dogs. All through the long mid-watches they sit and dit and dot, so tired and weary of it all, wondering why they ever chose radio as a rate. When they go ashore on Watch-stander's liberty, they hurry home to their little "Ham" radio set and just dit and dot to their heart's content.

Girls who fall for radiomen will find that they are courted with considerable sparking and many love messages in Morse code; and after they are married, they will receive much broadcasting both loud and long.

Radiomen are found on all ships and stations in the Navy and are quite harmless if left alone, occasionally fed and aired, and given annually thirty day's leave so that they may rig up their new outfits at home.